

Washington, DC) - Congressman Ciro D. Rodriguez (TX-23) released the following statement in response to the tragic tornadoes in Eagle Pass, Texas. Spanish language text of statement and text of the letter to Governor Perry follows. Residents in need of assistance identifying emergency resources available to them can contact our office at 1-866-915-3493.

"In light of last night's deadly tornadoes in Eagle Pass, Texas, I extend my most heartfelt sympathies to our friends and neighbors suffering from the extensive damage caused by this severe weather. My thoughts and prayers are with those who perished or were injured, and their families. While the full scope of damage from the tornadoes remains to be determined, what is clear is that the community of Eagle Pass, Texas, and its sister city Piedras Negras, Mexico, have suffered wide-ranging damage. I will continue to closely monitor the situation as it develops throughout the day and will remain in close contact with local and state officials. I have already put a call in this morning to Governor Perry asking him to declare an emergency disaster for Eagle Pass, and in my meeting with President Bush later today I will ask him to declare a Federal state of emergency as soon as possible so that federal resources can be made immediately available."

**\*\*\*EN ESPAÑOL\*\*\***

"Quiero extender mis condolencias a nuestros amigos y vecinos que sufren hoy del daño extenso causado por los tornados anoche en Eagle Pass, Texas. Mis pensamientos y rezos están con los que fallecieron o fueron heridos, y sus familias. Mientras que los oficiales siguen investigando el grado del daño, lo que está claro hoy es que las comunidades de Eagle Pass, Texas, y Piedras Negras, México, han sufrido vasto daño. Continuaré a supervisar la situación como se revela a través del día y permaneceré en contacto con los funcionarios del local y del estado. Esta mañana llamé a Gobernador Perry y esta tarde voy a hablar con el Presidente Bush para pedir una declaración del desastre de la emergencia federal para que podamos comenzar a proporcionar fondos federales inmediatamente para ayudar a los afectados por la tormenta."

Dear Governor Perry:

As you are well aware, last night a band of severe weather traveled through much of the middle Rio Grande region, most of which is located in my congressional district. A tornado struck in the City of Eagle Pass destroying several properties including over twenty homes, Rosita Valley Elementary School, and the municipal sewer plant. Reports from my district have indicated that this weather event has already taken the lives of six people and injured over seventy.

I know the City of Eagle Pass will do what they can to recover from this devastating event, but they cannot do it alone. I respectfully request that you declare an emergency disaster and provide Eagle Pass with necessary resources to begin the recovery process. The City is already working tirelessly to provide assistance to its residents and I hope we can work together in this great time of need.

Should you have additional questions, please do not hesitate to call me directly at (202) 225-4831.

Sincerely,

Ciro D. Rodriguez

Member of Congress